



# CALIFORNIA STATE THREAT ASSESSMENT CENTER

## 24-HOUR REPORT

**23 SEPTEMBER 2020**

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### **(U) CALIFORNIA**

#### **(U) Los Angeles – Authorities Arrest 21 Suspects in Multi-State Drug Ring**

(U) Authorities have broken up a drug-trafficking operation that was moving marijuana, heroin and cocaine from California to Wisconsin. A US Attorney reported during a news conference that federal, state and local law enforcement officers arrested 21 of 26 suspects connected to the ring Tuesday morning. Officers executed search warrants in both California and Milwaukee. They seized about 33 firearms, \$170,000 in cash, marijuana, cocaine and more than 700-grams of heroin.

SOURCE: 22 September 2020, [The San Diego Union-Tribune](#)

#### **(U) Palo Alto – Smoke from California Fires May Have Killed More Than 1,000 People**

(U) Between 1 August and 10 September, the historically bad concentration of wildfire smoke is responsible for at least 1,200 and possibly up to 3,000 deaths in California that otherwise would not have occurred, according to an estimate by researchers at Stanford University. Those fatalities were among people age 65 and over, most of whom were living with pre-existing medical conditions like heart disease, diabetes, and respiratory ailments.

SOURCE: 23 September 2020, [Mercury News](#)

### **(U) NATIONAL**

#### **(U) District of Columbia – US Warns Foreign Actors Aim to Sow Doubts Over Mail-In Voting**

(U) Washington DC – US federal law enforcement and cybersecurity agencies on Tuesday warned that “foreign actors” will likely try to discredit the November presidential election by taking advantage of the slow counting of mail-in ballots. Foreign actors and cybercriminals could exploit the time required to certify and announce elections’ results by disseminating disinformation that includes reports of voter suppression, cyber-attacks targeting election infrastructure, voter or ballot fraud. This could come in the form of new websites or social media content. The aim would be to discredit the electoral process and undermine confidence in US democratic institutions.

SOURCE: 22 September 2020, [Reuters](#)

#### **(U) Puerto Rico – Border Patrol Agents Seize 193-Pounds of Cocaine on Beach**

(U) Loiza – US Border Patrol agents and police in Puerto Rico seized 193-pounds of cocaine found inside an abandoned vessel. The drugs had an estimated street value of \$2.3 million. Border patrol agents, the Puerto Rico Police Department and the FBI responded to a call about a maritime smuggling event on a beach near Loiza. Agents found a 22-foot, yola-type homemade vessel with two outboard engines, the news release stated. The boat contained items that originated in the Dominican Republic. After conducting a search, agents said they found bales with bricks that tested positive for cocaine, according to the news release.

SOURCE: 22 September 2020, [WPXI](#)

#### **(U) Texas – FBI Arrested Man Accused of Providing Support to ISIS**

(U) San Antonio – A Gonzales County man arrested by the FBI in San Antonio this week is accused of

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providing support to the Islamic State in Iraq and ash-Sham (ISIS) and discussed carrying out attacks within the US and overseas on behalf of the terrorist group, federal court records reveal. Jaylyn Molina, who also refers to himself as "Abdur Rahim," faces a charge of conspiracy to provide material support to a designated foreign terrorist organization. A co-defendant, Kristopher Matthews, was taken into custody in Tennessee, according to a motion to unseal records in the case filed Monday.

SOURCE: 23 September 2020, [KSAT](#)

### **(U) INTERNATIONAL**

#### **(U) China – Facebook Removes Two Groups from Social Networks for Foreign Interference**

(U) Beijing – Facebook removed two separate networks for violating policy against coordinated inauthentic behavior (CIB). One of these networks originated in China and the other in the Philippines. Facebook removed 155 accounts, 11 Pages, 9 Groups and 6 Instagram accounts for violating the company's policy against foreign or government interference which is coordinated inauthentic behavior on behalf of a foreign or government entity. This activity originated in China and focused primarily on the Philippines and Southeast Asia more broadly, and also on the United States.

SOURCE: 22 September 2020, [Facebook](#)

#### **(U) France – Eiffel Tower Reopens After Bomb Threat**

(U) Paris – The Eiffel Tower was evacuated for several hours after police received a call suggesting a bomb had been placed there. The Paris monument had been searched and no explosives found, a police spokeswoman said. Several hundred people, including tourists, restaurant staff and workmen were led away from the tower in the late morning.

SOURCE: 23 September 2020, [Reuters](#)

#### **(U) Turkey – Authorities Detain Five ISIS Terror Suspects**

(U) Adana – Five suspected ISIS terrorists have been detained in southern Turkey, as police in Adana province launched an operation in five locations against six members of the terror group who had been operating in Syria. Turkey was one of the first countries to recognize ISIS as a terrorist group in 2013, as soon as it emerged. The country has since been attacked by ISIS terrorists' numerous times, including 10 suicide bombings, seven bombings and four armed attacks, which killed 315 people and injured hundreds. In response, Turkey launched military and police operations such as this to prevent further terror attacks.

SOURCE: 22 September 2020, [Hurriyet Daily News](#)

### **(U) PREPARED BY THE CALIFORNIA STATE THREAT ASSESSMENT CENTER.**

**(U) FOR QUESTIONS OR CONCERNS, PLEASE EMAIL [STAC@CALOES.CA.GOV](mailto:STAC@CALOES.CA.GOV), OR CALL 916-636-2900.**

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